

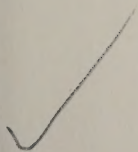
GEN



3 1833 03165 0499

Gc 977.202 V74hi

Historic Vincennes



HISTORIC VINCENNES



A City rich in history and with a heritage in the winning of the Northwest. 25 drawings of historical points of interest with a short concise historical commentary of each.

Each illustration is perforated for framing

FORWARD

With all of its rich background of history and tradition, Vincennes has comparatively few landmarks associated with its significant past. This is all the more reason why those that have survived the ravages of time and progress should be preserved and valued.

Mr. Ernst has made a most worthwhile contribution to the preservation of the history of The Old Post in the pictures and sketches to be found in this attractive book. It ought to be widely distributed by those who have an appreciation of the part played by this community in the development of our state and nation.

CURTIS G. SHAKE

*Dedicated to the City of Vincennes, and to its
citizens of yesterday, today and tomorrow.*

Beautiful, stately, St. Francis Xavier, Vincennes' first Catholic Church and Cathedral, is rich in historical as well as religious significance. Built in 1826 on the site of the first rough-hewn log church built probably about 1702. In 1834 it became the Cathedral Parish, of the Diocese of Vincennes, which embraced all of Indiana, and even included Chicago within its diocesan confines. Here in the Cathedral crypt are buried the great pioneer Bishops: Brute, Hallandiere, de La St. Palais and Bazin.

Interesting Sidelights

MANY NOTED PERSONAGES HAVE WORSHIPED AT THE OLD CATHEDRAL. EACH YEAR IT IS VISITED BY THOUSANDS WHO VISIT AND STAND IN AWE AND RESPECT IN ITS QUIET, CANDLE-LIT SURROUNDINGS.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE OLD CATHEDRAL

This is the bronze statue of Father Pierre Gibault that stands on a granite block in the Cathedral plaza. It was the work of Albin Polasek, and erected in 1936. This is the memorial to the Catholic priest who gave his every effort to George Rogers Clark in winning of the Northwest Territory. Born April 7, 1737, at Montreal, Gibault was ordained to the priesthood in 1763. His first pastorate was the mission at Kaskaskia. Gibault was a man of refinement and culture and very exact and precise in his duties. In the winter of 1769-1770 Gibault began his trek to Vincennes from Kaskaskia through a country marked by many vicious Indians. Gibault returned to Kaskaskia and administered to his parish. Upon the request of Clark, who had captured Kaskaskia, he returned to acquaint the natives of Vincennes of the American Cause. Following the arrival of the British General Hamilton with a large force at Vincennes, Clark became discouraged of ever capturing Fort Sackville . . . but it was Gibault who encouraged Clark with plans, personal financing . . . above all provided two companies of Illinois troops . . . all of whom were his parishioners. That Gibault planned well, is attested to by the fact that Clark lost not one man in the capture of Fort Sackville. Gibault not only aided Clark's campaign financially . . . (he did impoverish himself) . . . but it was Gibault who championed the new government . . . believed in it and recommended it most strongly to his people.

Interesting Sidelights

FATHER GIBAULT SUFFERED THE LOSS OF HIS ECCLESIASTICAL STANDING BY ESPOUSING THE AMERICAN CAUSE, FOR HIS CANADIAN BISHOP BEING PRO-BRITISH, DISOWNED HIM. FOR NO REASON THAT WE KNOW, FATHER GIBAULT TOOK UP HIS RESIDENCE IN 1783 AT ST. GENEVIEVE ON THE WESTERN SHORE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER WHERE HE RESIDED FOR TWO YEARS. IN 1785 HE RETURNED TO VINCENNES WHERE HE REMAINED AS RESIDENT PASTOR OF ST. XAVIER'S CHURCH UNTIL 1789. FROM THIS YEAR UNTIL 1792, GIBAULT WANDERED THROUGH THE ILLINOIS TERRITORY, PENNILESS AND WITHOUT A PASTORATE. IN 1793 HE RETURNED TO NEW MADRID WHERE HE BECAME PASTOR OF ST. ISIDORES' CHURCH. THE TIME AND PLACE OF THIS GREAT MAN'S DEATH IS UNKNOWN. MOST WRITERS ASSERT THAT HE DIED IN 1804 IN NEW MADRID -- WHILE STILL OTHER WRITERS SAY HE DIED AND WAS BURIED IN CANADA.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

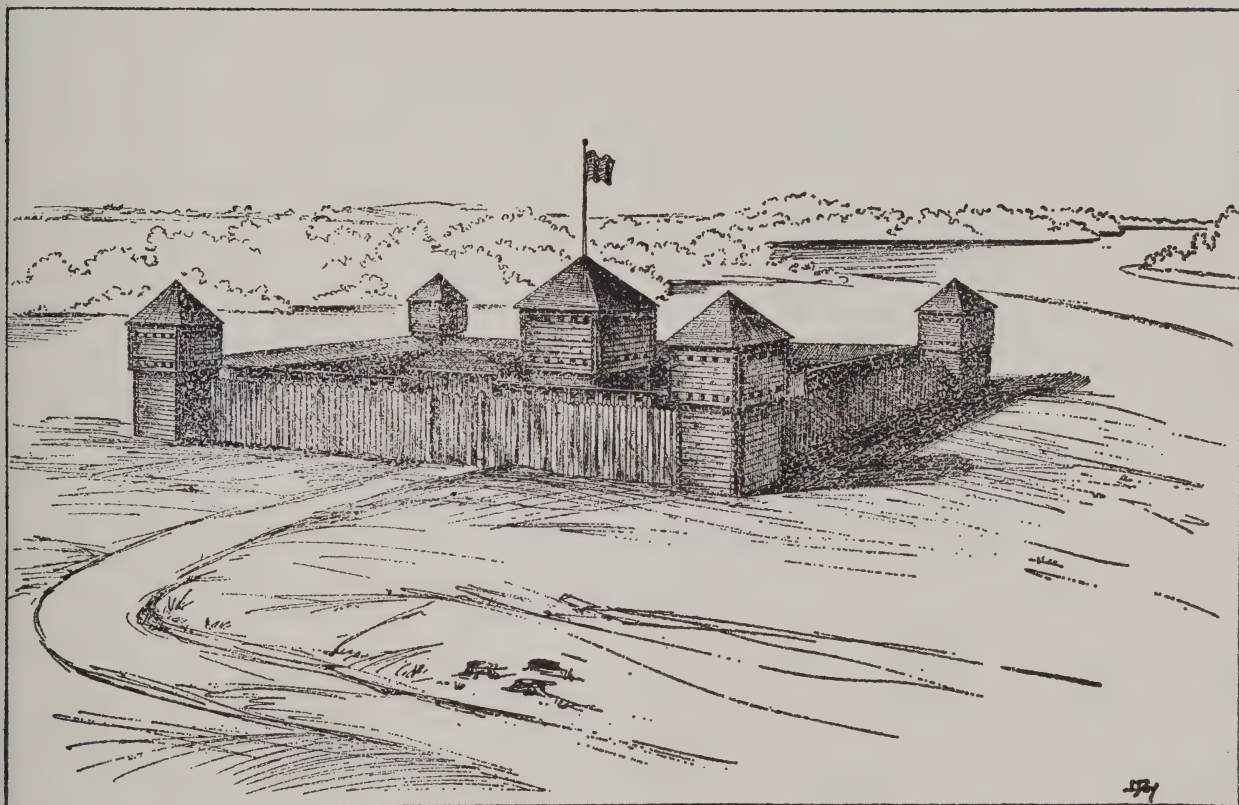
THE FATHER PIERRE GIBAULT STATUE

This is Fort Sackville... the beginning of old Vincennes' proud history. Drawn by the artist from rare old prints, it graphically shows a strength that was formidable in military aspect to both Indians and white marauders alike. The possessor of this fort held this area.

Fort Sackville was named after Lord George Germaine otherwise known as Lord Sackville, Secretary of State for American Colonies of the British Government. The Fort was thus named by Edward Abbot, British Official in charge of this area. It was built upon ground deeded to the French by Tobacco Peankashaw Indian Chief. It enclosed an irregular plat about 60 feet wide and 200 feet long. A high log picket stockade enclosed the military parade ground and a block house in the center which served as Officer's quarters. Beneath this center block house, was the powder magazine and supplies. At the rear of the fort (facing the Wabash River) were the barracks for the soldiers, settlers and itinerant trappers. The four corners of the stockade were surmounted by blockhouses which contained pieces of ordnance.

It was this fort, with an 80 man garrison under the command of the English Governor Hamilton, that surrendered to George Rogers Clark and his men on the 25th of February, 1779... and it was this event that marked the beginning of the The Northwest Territory... the great western expansion and growth of the newly-formed United States.

Fort Sackville stood on the ground now occupied by the Clark Memorial.... (in fact, the beautiful mall which fronts the Memorial.) It's gates opened on Water Street... (today's First Street). Clark occupied the fort following its surrender for a period of time, but as the years marched forward it was unoccupied and fell into ruin and disrepair, ultimately disappearing and the site being occupied by other buildings.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

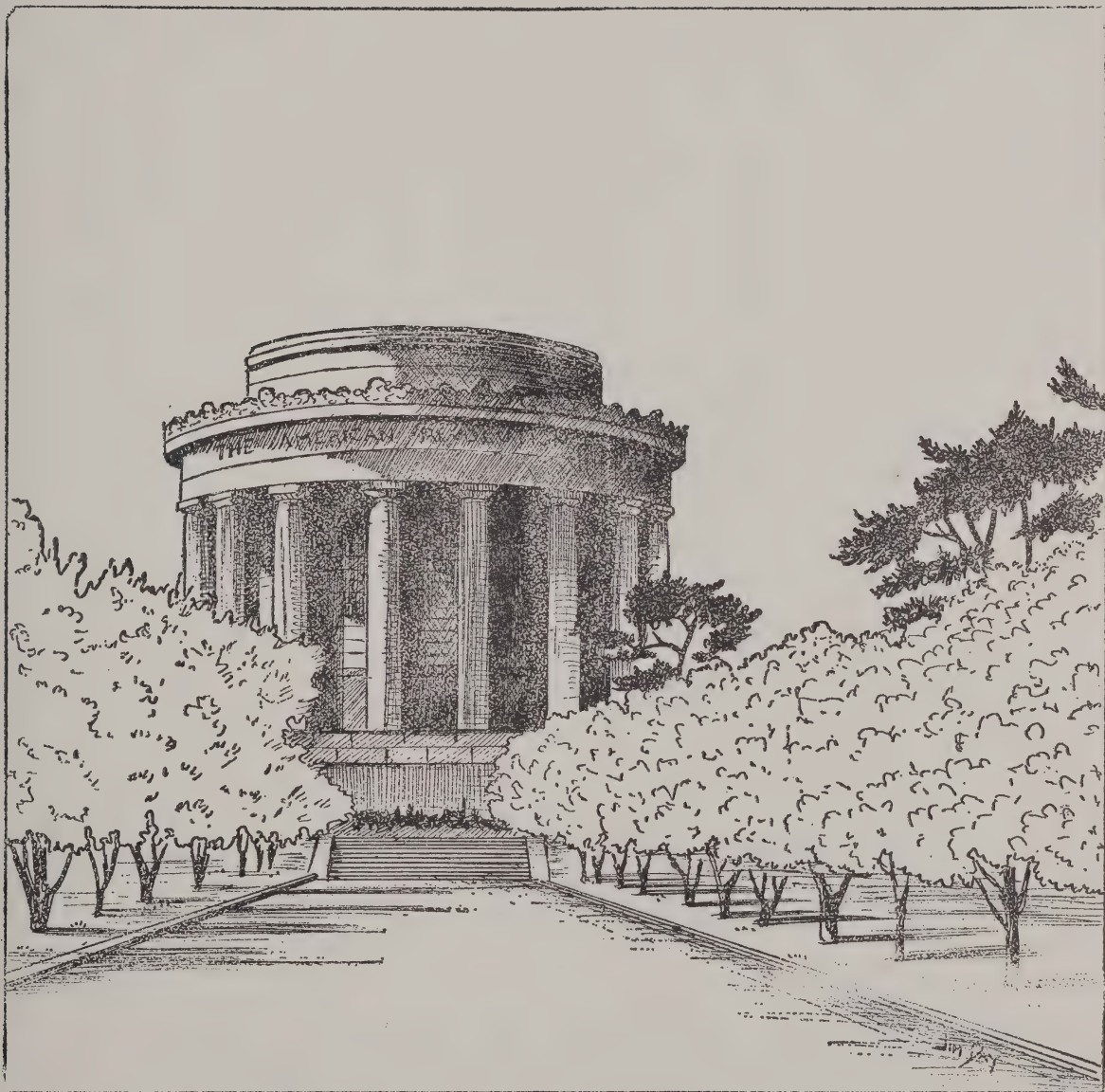
THE FORT SACKVILLE

Situated on the historic site of Fort Sackville in Vincennes is the George Rogers Clark Memorial. This stately Doric Temple commemorates the winning of the old Northwest Territory and the achievements of Clark and his associates during the American Revolutionary War. It is one of the finest memorials outside the nation's capital.

Mounted high around the circular wall of the interior of the memorial are seven large mural oil paintings on canvas representing scenes from Clark's life which led to the conquest of the west. A bronze statue of Clark stands in the center of the memorial beneath the dome.

Interesting Sidelights

ERECTED AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,500,000 BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, STATE OF INDIANA, KNOX COUNTY AND THE CITY OF VINCENNES, AND DEDICATED ON JUNE 14, 1936 BY PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, THE CLARK MEMORIAL IS ONE OF VINCENNES' PROUDEST HISTORICAL POINTS AND A MECCA FOR COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF TRAVELERS AND VISITORS. IT IS OPEN DAILY, THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK MEMORIAL

The Old Northwest comprised the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. The British government tried to exclude the thirteen colonies from this region, and at the beginning of the Revolution incited the Indians to raid the Kentucky settlements and harry the frontier. A young Virginian, George Rogers Clark, who had settled in Kentucky, secured help from Virginia for the defense of the western settlements. In spite of this the massacres continued. He then conceived the brilliant plan of attacking the British posts and winning the territory for Virginia. Acting under secret orders from Governor Patrick Henry, he gathered together a force of about one hundred and fifty men at Corn Island, near the present Louisville. Quickly descending the Ohio and marching overland from Fort Massac, he surprised and captured Kaskaskia and Cahokia in July, 1778.

The British then sent Colonel Henry Hamilton from Detroit to Vincennes. He rebuilt the old fort, and named it Fort Sackville, planning in the spring to destroy Clark and his forces.

This was prevented by the bold exploit of Clark. He had already intimidated most of the Indian tribes by sheer personal force. With a little army of about one hundred and seventy-five men, half Virginians and half French, he left Kaskaskia on February 5, 1779 and marched overland to Vincennes. After undergoing great hardships, floods, lack of food, and at the last freezing weather, the little band surprised the British garrison. Aided by food and powder furnished by the French inhabitants of Vincennes, who had been won over to the American cause by Father Gibault and Francis Vigo, Clark and his men forced Hamilton, the "Hair Buyer" to surrender on February 25th. Thus was assured the possession of the interior of the continent and the further expansion of the United States.

Interesting Sidelights

STANDING IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL BUILDING, AND SURROUNDED BY GIANT MURALS OF HIS EXPLOITS, STANDS THIS BRONZE STATUE OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK. THIS IMPOSING STATUE IS THE WORK OF HERMAN A. MACNEIL, SCULPTOR. IT COMMEMORATES THE WINNING OF THE OLD NORTHWEST AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLARK AND HIS ASSOCIATES IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION.



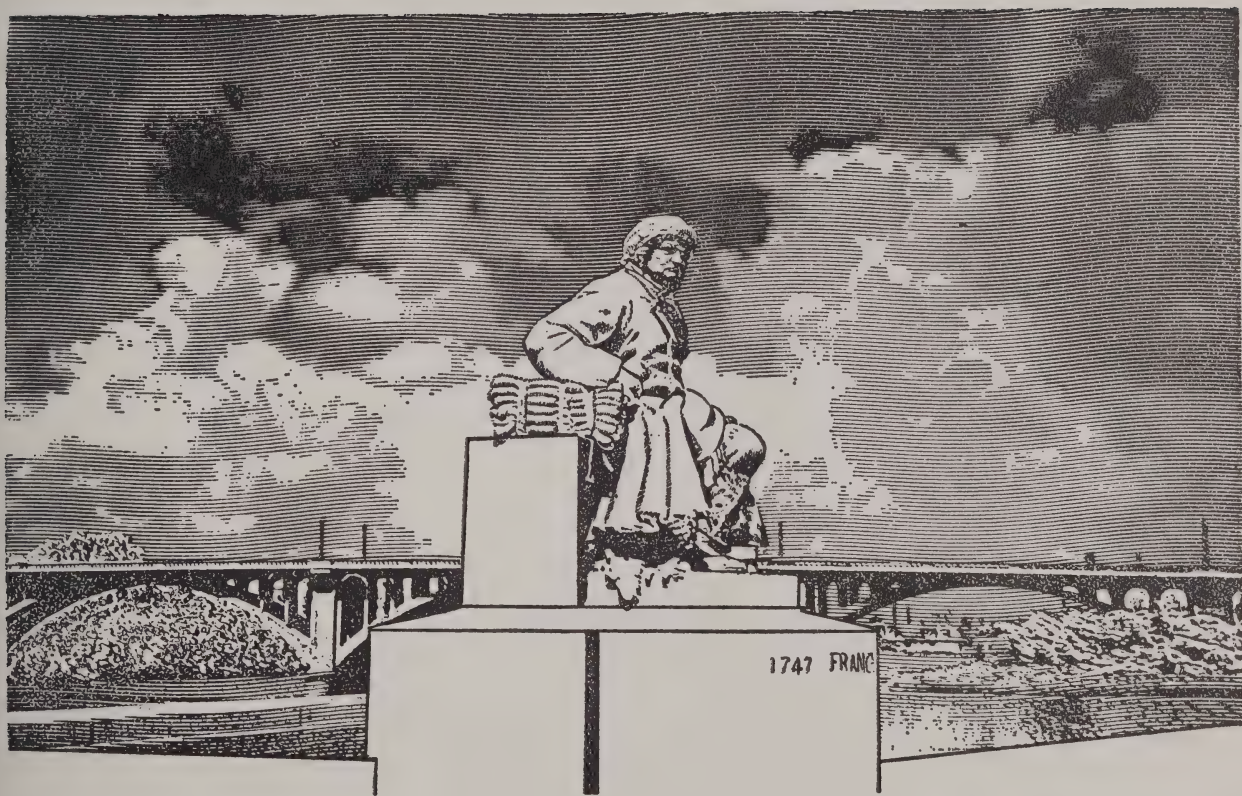
HISTORIC VINCENNES
THE GEORGE ROGERS CLARK STATUE

This is the statue of Francis Vigo . . . an inspiring likeness chiseled from ageless Massachusetts marble . . . which is seated on the banks of the Wabash River, and gazing with an air of pride at the Doric columned Clark Memorial. This is the statue (the work of John Angel, noted sculpture) that depicts Francis Vigo in the garb of a well-to-do man of the early 1800's, with a parcel of furs by his side. This is the statue that was placed March 4, 1936 by a city and nation that all-too late recognized the so very important part this man . . . "This Robert Morris" of the West played in George Rogers Clark's successful conquest of the Northwest Territory. For, it was Francis Vigo who financed Clark's expedition from Kaskaskia to Vincennes in the amount of \$8,014.00 . . . and who died March 22, 1836 with a total estate of \$77.62. It was not until the year 1875 that Congress honored Vigo's claims and reimbursed his heirs for the unselfish financing of Clark. Vigo was born at Mondovi, Sardinia, (Italy), December 3, 1747. Early in life he became a Spanish soldier and muleteer. Without education, Vigo entered into an agreement with DeLayba, the Spanish Governor, at St. Louis, and embarked in the fur business. Vigo became a wealthy man. Thus, it was in his power financially to give Clark monetary aid.

Interesting Sidelights

VIGO IS BURIED IN VINCENNES' GREENLAWN CEMETERY, AND HIS GRAVE IS MARKED BY A STONE ERECTED BY THE D A R, FRANCIS VIGO CHAPTER IN 1909 VIGO WAS ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATION IN THE AARON BURR AFFAIR, BUT THESE CHARGES CAME TO NAUGHT. VIGO, AS A CITIZEN OF VINCENNES WAS VERY POPULAR AND LOVED. THE STATEMENT IS MADE THAT HE WAS MUCH IN DEMAND AS A GODFATHER AT BAPTISMS. VIGO COUNTY, VIGO TOWNSHIP, VIGO STREET ALL BEAR HIS NAME. VIGO PRESENTED THE VIGO COUNTY COURT-HOUSE (TERRE HAUTE) WITH A BELL IN GRATITUDE FOR HAVING THE COUNTY BEAR HIS NAME. VIGO AND FATHER GIBAULT WERE VERY CLOSE FRIENDS AND MUTUAL ADMIRERS.

UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO, A GIANT TREE STOOD ON THE CORNER OF FOURTH AND VIGO STREET. TRADITION HAS IT, THAT THIS TREE GREW FROM AN OSAGE SLIP WHICH VIGO PLACED IN THE GROUND TO MARK THE LINE OF VIGO ST. VIGO'S LIFE UNDERWENT EXHAUSTIVE RESEARCH BY DR. BRUNO ROSSELLI, EMINENT ITALIAN EDUCATOR AND AUTHOR, WHO TRACED VIGO'S CAREER.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE FRANCIS VIGO STATUE

Nestling in the shadow of the Cathedral . . . stands the vine-covered Old Cathedral Library. The oldest library in the State of Indiana, and which contains 5000 volumes, many of which were printed before 1700, and the balance with few exceptions, were printed prior to 1800. The Old Cathedral Library contains the personal books of Simon Brute, First Bishop of the Vincennes Diocese, unquestionably the Library had it's beginning with Brute's book collection. This library houses Father Gibault's Missal or Mass Book printed in 1688, used by him in saying mass. This book was the nucleus for this library. The oldest books on its shelves bear the dates 1476, 1477, 1483 and 1489. An original book of sermons, embellished with illuminated initial letters, in red and blue on a gold background, is a priceless treasure. The exquisite tracery of vine and flower, bird and fruit, done with the pen shows the loving skill of those artistic monks who devoted their lives and talents to this wonderful art.

Interesting Sidelights

HERE ARE TO BE FOUND DICTIONARIES AND GEOGRAPHIES PUBLISHED FROM 1636 TO 1665 (THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BORROWED SOME OF THESE MAPS FOR PROCURING COPIES TO BE PRESERVED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY), VOYAGES AND DISCOVERIES OF CHAMPLAIN, 1619. PERE HENNEPIN AND CHARLEVOIX; LETTERS RECORDING EVENTS AMONG THE MISSIONS OF AMERICA AS EARLY AS 1608 TO 1673. BESIDES NUMEROUS BIBLES THERE ARE BOOKS ON HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, GEOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHY, THEOLOGY, LAW, POLITICAL ECONOMY, AND GENERAL LITERATURE IN GREEK, ARABIC, HEBREW, LATIN, FRENCH. HERE YOU WILL FIND PARCHMENT PRINTS, ENGRAVINGS AND MAPS AND MANY OTHER PRECIOUS TREASURES . . . INCLUDING A LETTER OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WRITTEN ON EASTER SUNDAY 1636 TO 1665 (THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BORROWED SOME OF BACK IN AN UNBROKEN SERIES TO JUNE 25, 1749.

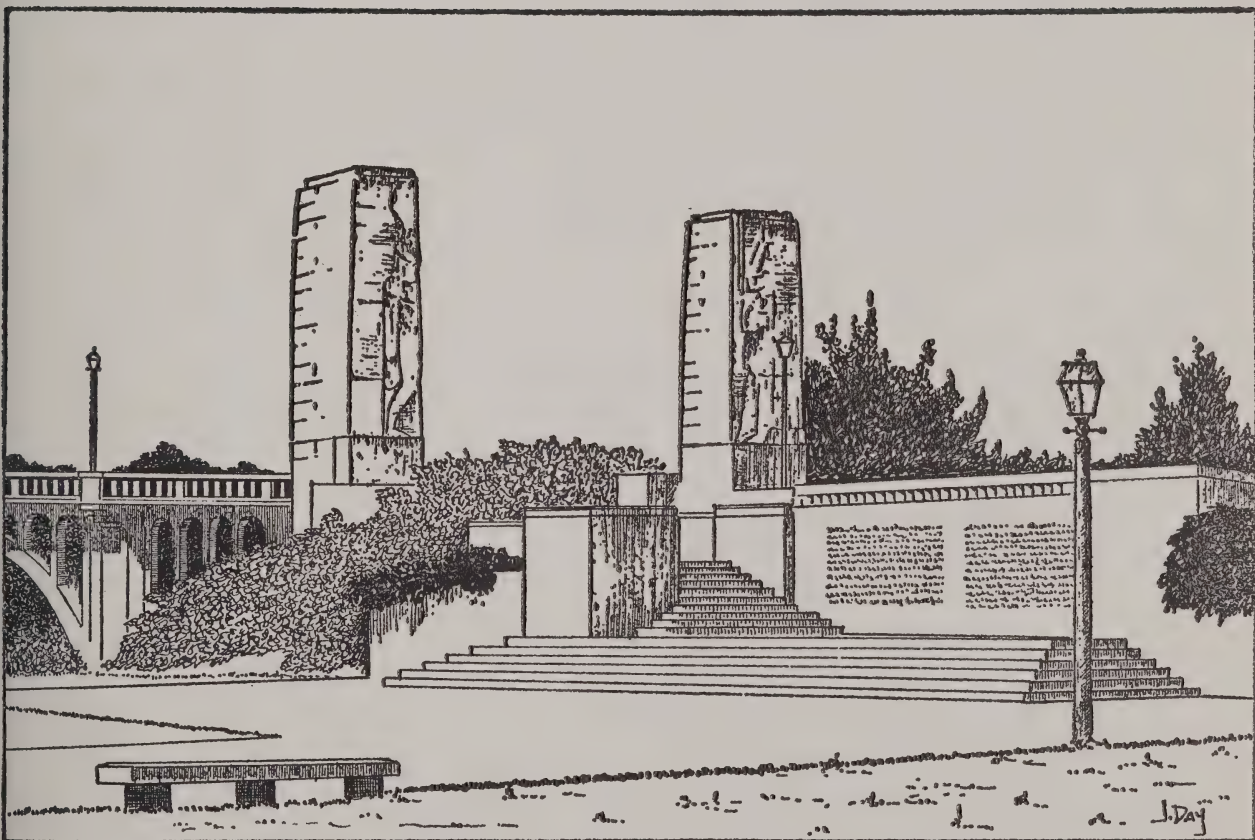


HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE OLD CATHEDRAL LIBRARY

ARCHING GRACEFULLY OVER THE WABASH RIVER, THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL BRIDGE SOARS FROM INDIANA TO ILLINOIS SHORE. NO MORE COMPREHENSIVE EXPLANATION CAN BE MADE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL STRUCTURE THAN THE DEDICATORY WORDS, ENGRAVED IN STONE ON THE EAST APPROACH . . . TRULY A SONG OF WORDS:

"From earliest times, the Wabash River was a route between North and South. Here at a fording place it was crossed by Buffalo trace and ancient paths, worn by countless animals and aborigines in their migrations between East and West. Near this meeting of ancient ways Moundbuilders left vestiges of a remote past and forgotten races. Here in historic times Indians dwelt and traveled both land and water routes. French Explorers and Missionaries followed. Early in the Eighteenth Century was established Vincennes, The oldest settlement in this region. From France, England won this region. In the war of the Revolution the British Commander in the Northwest came down the Wabash making Fort Sackville at this crossing of ways the key to the frontier. George Rogers Clark with his troops followed the Buffalo Trace from Kaskaskia toward Vincennes and captured Fort Sackville. By this route came William Henry Harrison First Governor of Indiana and Louisiana Territories. Pioneers came seeking new homes in Illinois and beyond the Mississippi. Here the youth Abraham Lincoln making his last pioneer move crossed the Wabash into Illinois. The Wabash River dividing the states of Indiana, Illinois was spanned after the Civil War by a bridge of timbers with an iron draw mid-stream. In 1931 the two states erected this bridge of concrete. It overlooks the scene of the Victory which crowned the heroic march of Clark's little army from Kaskaskia. Forming a link in the central continental highway which replaces Buffalo Traces, Indian trails and dangerous fordings this structure commemorates the opening of the west and the expansion of our Country from ocean to ocean."



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL BRIDGE

At the foot of the Lincoln Memorial Bridge, on the Illinois shore, stands this monument . . . a bas-relief panorama depicting a family . . . old and young migrating westward, and a lone figure in bronze, a young lad, with oxen goad in hand marching beside the patient oxen team. This is Abraham Lincoln entering into his destiny on the prairies of Illinois. Back on the Indiana shore a huge brass plaque on the bridge abutment proclaims: "Site of Ferry Landing." From this place in the year 1830 Abraham Lincoln crossed the Wabash to Illinois.

Interesting Sidelights

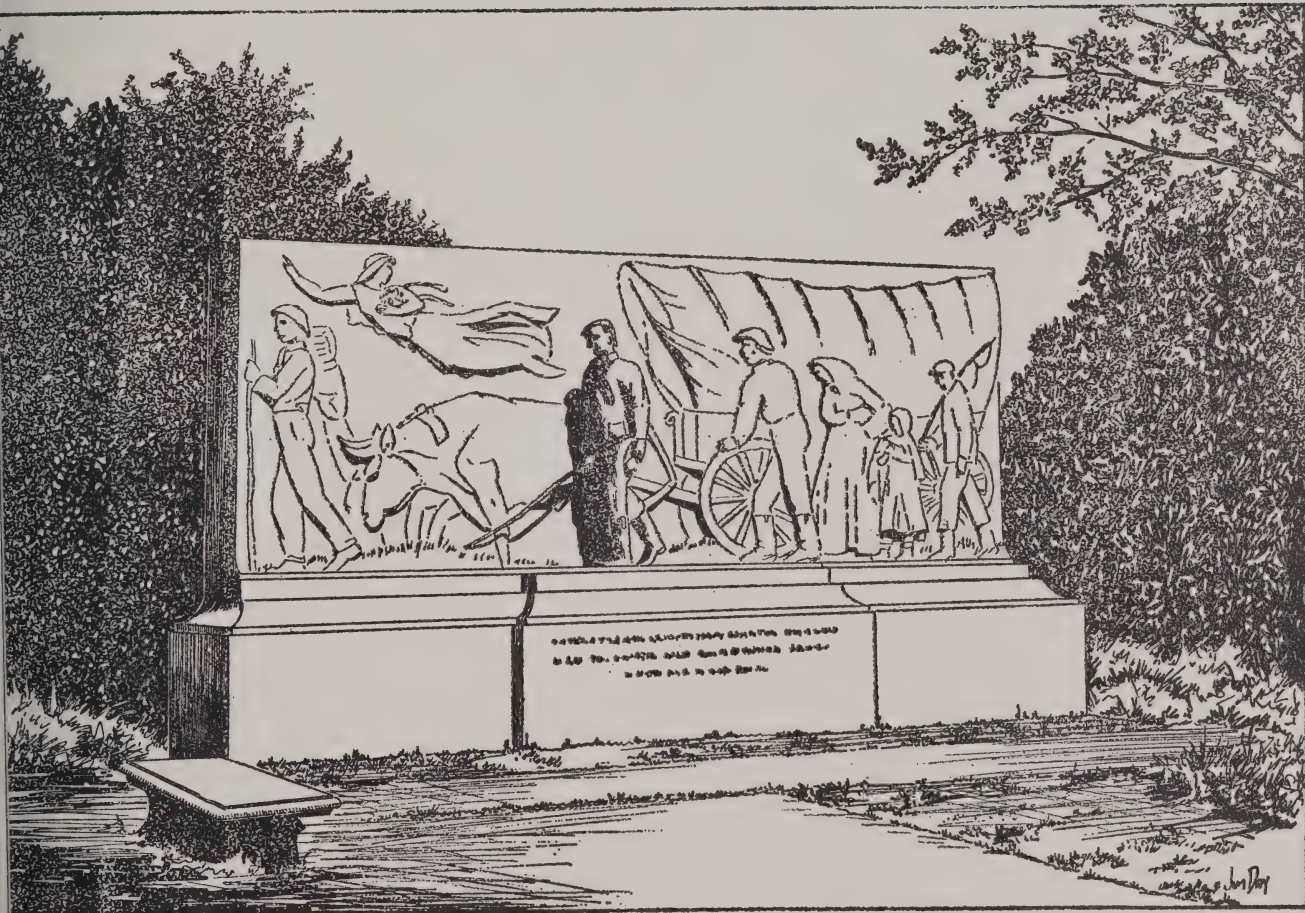
VINCENNES IS RICH IN LINCOLN ASSOCIATION BEGINNING WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE FAMILY IN INDIANA IN 1816. THOMAS LINCOLN, HIS FATHER, WALKED FROM SPENCER COUNTY TO VINCENNES AND ENTERED HIS FARM AT THE UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE. JOHN BADOLLET WAS 'REGISTER' OF THE OFFICE AND WAS STILL HOLDING THAT POSITION IN 1827 WHEN THOMAS LINCOLN SURRENDERED HALF HIS CLAIM AND RECEIVED A PATENT FOR EIGHTY ACRES SIGNED BY PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

LINCOLN DOUBTLESS HEARD MUCH OF VINCENNES FROM WILLIAM JONES THE PROPRIETOR OF A GENERAL STORE NEAR THE LINCOLN HOME. LINCOLN AS A YOUTH CLERKED THERE. JONES WAS BORN IN VINCENNES AND LIVED HERE UNTIL ATTAINING MANHOOD. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE "WESTERN SUN."

AT THE TIME OF THE REMOVAL OF THE LINCOLN FAMILY TO ILLINOIS THEY PASSED THROUGH VINCENNES IN MARCH OF 1830. TRADITION SAYS THAT THEY REMAINED HERE THREE DAYS IN ORDER TO HAVE THEIR WAGON-TIRES SET BY A BLACKSMITH. IN THE PARTY WERE THOMAS LINCOLN AND HIS WIFE SALLY BUSH LINCOLN, HIS SON ABRAHAM AND HER SON JOHN D. JOHNSTON; DENNIS HANKS AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH JOHNSTON HANKS AND THEIR FOUR CHILDREN, SARAH JANE, HARRIET, NANCY AND JOHN TALBOT HANKS; SQUIRE HALL AND HIS WIFE MATILDA AND THEIR SON JOHN JOHNSTON HALL.

LINCOLN RETURNED TO VINCENNES SEVERAL TIMES IN LATER YEARS.

THE ILLINOIS ORGANIZATION, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, ERECTED THIS MONUMENT IN 1938 TO COMMEMORATE THE ARRIVAL OF THE LINCOLNS IN ILLINOIS. THE SCULPTOR WAS NELLIE V. WALKER.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE LINCOLN TREK MONUMENT

Situated on Second street . . . and in the shadow of the Old Cathedral, is this old, old building. A tiny little brick building . . . but in its day it sheltered students and the devout who sought the solace and quiet of a chapel. This is the St. Rose Chapel . . . a remnant of one of the buildings of the College of Vincennes, founded in 1837 by Bishop Brute. Built in 1843 . . . (and built well of hand-made bricks) the St. Rose Chapel still stands, though not used any more. It may still be visited.

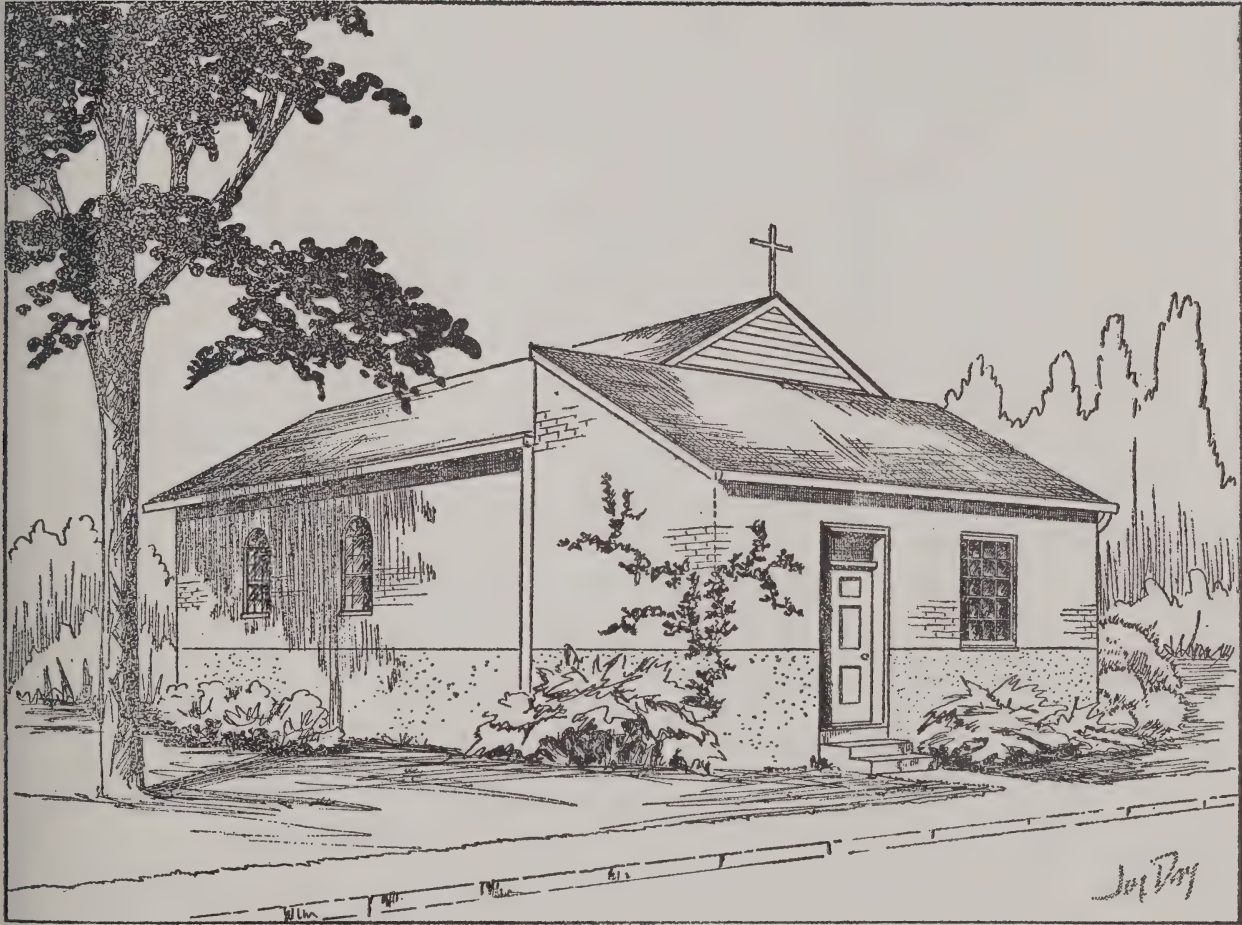
Interesting Sidelights

THIS CHAPEL SO TINY TO OUTWARD APPEARANCES, COULD AND DID SEAT UP TO 25 PEOPLE.

ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL ON BEHALF OF THE WORSHIPPERS WAS REACHED VIA A DOORWAY WHICH FACES THIRD STREET. THE PRIEST'S SACRISTY IS REACHED BY A DOORWAY WHICH OPENS UPON SECOND STREET.

A VERY SMALL SANCTUARY AND ALTAR ARE ANOTHER FEATURE OF THIS CHAPEL. BOTH ARE ENCLOSED BY A HAND-CARVED ALTAR RAIL.

ST. ROSE ACADEMY CONDUCTED BY THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE SINCE 1843. WAS PRECEDED BY ST. CLARE'S CONVENT AND FEMALE ACADEMY UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.



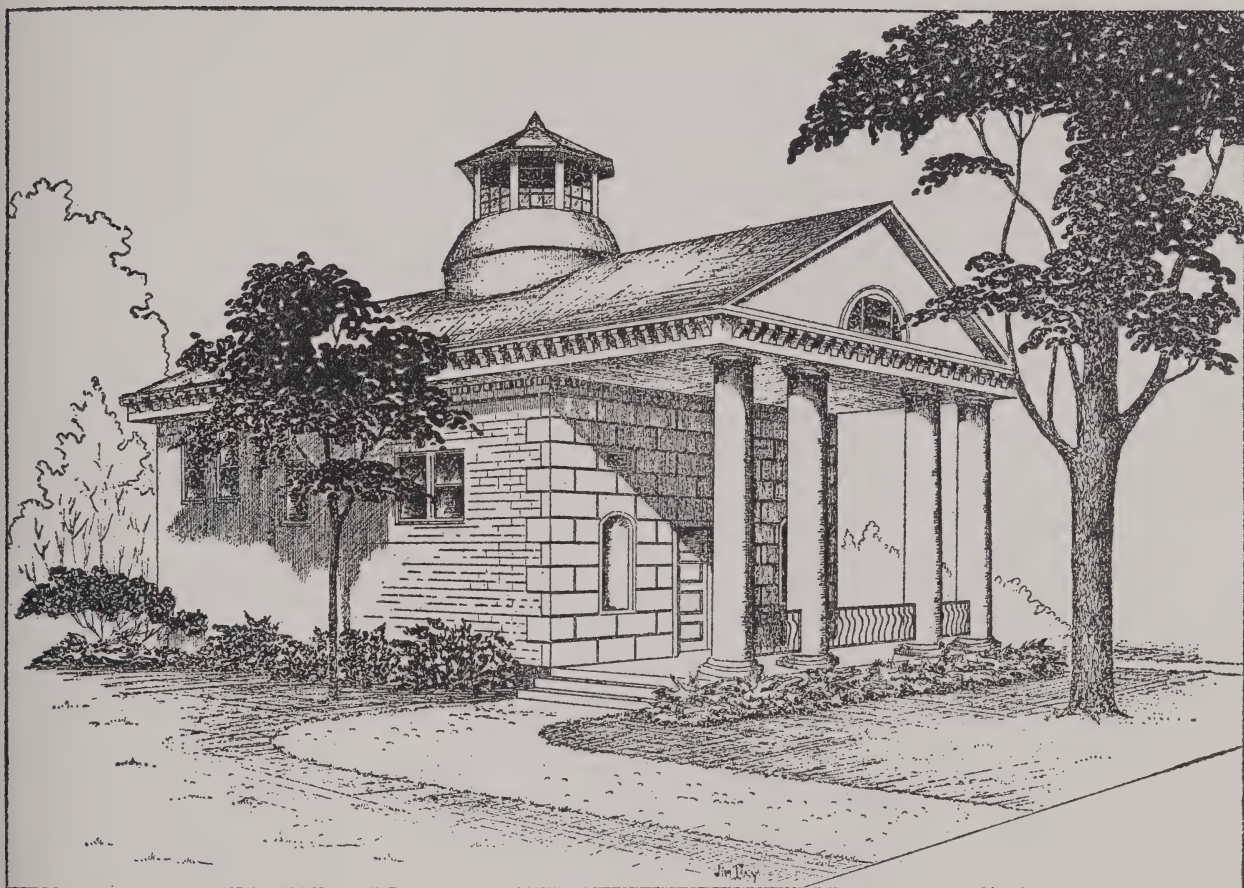
HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE OLD ST. ROSE CHAPEL

This is the artist's conception of the appearance of The Old State Bank Building as it looked in its hey-day . . . 1836* . . . and which will, by the diligent untiring efforts of the Francis Vigo Chapter of The DAR look when restored in the future. Few residents have known the large brick building, (a branch of the State Bank of Indiana) with its sandstone-columned portico, brick-walled dome topped with a glass cupola, supported by six fluted columns reaching from the first floor, hand-riveted steel money vault . . . ever existed in Vincennes. But it does—though screened from view today by built-on business rooms at 112 and 114 N. Second street, opposite the Judge Ellis Mansion, now the Harmony Club. With the recent demolition of the old opera house, the building can well be seen from Busseron and from First Streets.

Interesting Sidelights

- THAT A BAG OF GOLD WAS KEPT IN THE VAULT TO SHOW CUSTOMERS OF THE SOLIDITY OF THE BANK.
- THAT THE ROOF ORIGINALLY WAS MADE OF LEAD, BUT REMOVED TO MAKE BULLETS FOR THE UNION ARMY IN THE CIVIL WAR.
- THAT THE ACOUSTICS OF THE BUILDING WERE SUCH, THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK COULD SET AT HIS DESK AND HEAR EVERY WORD SPOKEN IN THE COUNTING AND BANKING ROOMS.
- THAT THE STONE THRESHOLD AT THE REAR SIDE OF THE BUILDING ENTERING INTO THE 'TRADERS AND TRAPPERS ROOM' HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY HOLLOWED BY HEAVY TRAFFIC OF BACKWOODSMEN.
- THAT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THE CHARTER AND SUBSEQUENT BANKING CHANGES, THE BUILDING SERVED AS U. S. POST OFFICE UNTIL 1889.
- NO ONE HAS VENTURED AN OPINION ON THE PURPOSE OF THE GLASS CUPOLA . . . THOUGH THE GUESS IS HAZARD THAT IT WAS USED TO KEEP WATCH FOR APPROACHING RIVER PACKETS. FOR THIS BUILDING THEN WAS BY FAR THE TALLEST IN THE VILLAGE, AND COMMANDED A CLEAR VIEW UP AND DOWN THE WABASH.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE OLD STATE BANK BUILDING

This was the Old City Hall and market house, that stood on the City Hall block bounded by Main, Fourth, Busseron and the City Hall alley. Built in 1837 it served as City Hall until 1887, when it was torn down to make way for the "new" City Hall . . . which in turn was torn down in 1950. The entire site is now occupied by business buildings. At the time of its completion it was considered one of the finest public buildings in the state. It housed the Town Meeting Hall, the Mayor's Office, the Fire Engine Room, Clerk's Office (which also doubled as the "Calaboose" or Jail) and a market house, where food, baked goods, vegetables were sold by various individuals.

Interesting Sidelights

THE TRUSTEES OF THE BOROUGH OF VINCENNES PAID A MR. MOORE, \$5,815. - 06½ (YES ½ CENT!) FOR ERECTING THE BUILDING. MARKETING WAS CARRIED ON IN THE CITY HALL UNTIL THE LATE SIXTIES, WHEN VINCENNES' GROCERS AND FOOD PURVEYORS OBJECTED TO THE RENT-FREE, SUBSIDIZED MARKET ACTIVITIES GOING ON, AND THE PRACTICE WAS DISCONTINUED. ORIGINALLY THE ROOM OCCUPIED BY THE MAYOR WAS USED AS AN ENGINE HOUSE, THAT OF THE CLERK AS A 'JAIL' AND THE TREASURER'S OFFICE AS A LIBRARY. THE CITY HALL SAW IT'S GREATEST ACTIVITY DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND THE YEARS FOLLOWING THIS CONFLICT. A BEER HALL BY THE NAME OF SCHEAFER'S BEER HALL WAS LOCATED NEARBY, AND LEGEND HAS IT, THAT WHEN TOWN LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS BECAME 'TOO HOT', CITY LEGISLATORS WOULD RECESS THE MEETING AND 'CAUCUS' AT THE TAVERN OVER A COLD BEER.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE OLD CITY HALL & MARKET HOUSE

In the early days of this century, an historical novel was published by Maurice Thompson. It was entitled "Alice of Old Vincennes" and it was the story of the beautiful heroine Alice and of the times immediately preceding and during the capture of Fort Sackville by George Rogers Clark. Nothing aroused more interest in Old Vincennes generally than this book. Though this pioneer home was long, long ago torn down, it was located in the general area bounded by Barnett and Dubois and Second and Third Streets. The site is today designated as Historic Point No. 8 on the Old Post Trail.

Interesting Sidelights

THROUGHOUT THOMPSON'S STORY HISTORIC CHARACTERS CONNECTED WITH VINCENNES' APPEAR: FATHER GIBAULT, GEORGE ROGERS CLARK, CAPTAIN HELM, MADAME GODARE, AND MANY OTHERS.

THE ALICE STORY BY THOMPSON, HAS THE HEROINE UNFURLING THE NEW FLAG, (MADE BY MADAME GODARE) OVER THE FORT. EARLY FRENCH HOUSES WERE BUILT OF LOGS, LONG SLOPING ROOFS WHICH EXTENDED DOWN TO COVER THE VERANDA. "ALICE OF OLD VINCENNES" WAS A THRILLER IN THE BOOK-WORLD BACK IN THE EARLY 1900'S. 'JEAN THE HUNCHBACK', GASPARD ROUSSILON, 'ONCLE' JAZON, LT. BEVERLY, COLONEL HAMILTON, 'LONGHAIR' THE INDIAN AND MANY OTHER CHARACTERS COME AND GO IN THE NOVEL. ALICE WAS DESCRIBED BY THOMPSON AS A DASHING BEAUTY, KINDLY, YET WITHAL VERY INDEPENDENT. A PLAY WHICH FOLLOWED THE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK WAS A HIT! . . . AND PLAYED NOT ONLY ON BROADWAY, BUT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.



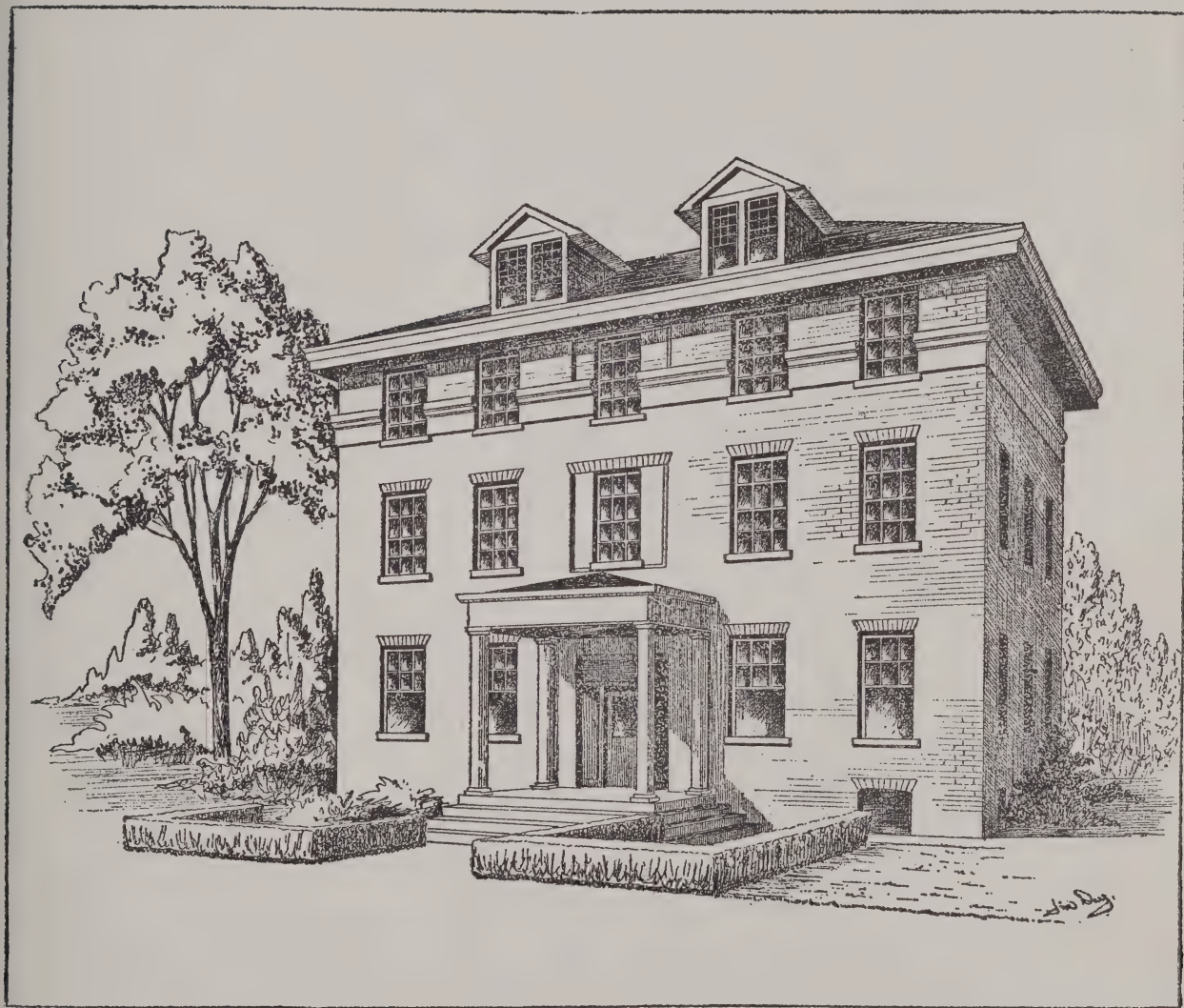
HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE LEGENDARY HOME, ALICE OF OLD VINCENNES

This fine old house, which stands near the corner of Main and Fifth Streets, is one of the most perfect examples of Colonial Architecture within hundreds of miles. It was built by Jonathan Spinning of Cincinnati, for David S. Bonner, a Virginia gentleman and financier who came to Vincennes in the early days of the last century. Its actual erection date is to a degree uncertain though Hubbard Madison Smith, M. D., in his story "Old Vincennes" wrote that it was built in 1822. Bonner erected and operated a cotton mill on Barnett street between Second and Third (where Central Catholic High School now stands) for cotton growing about Vincennes was heavy at that time. David Bonner was not only rich but elegant, and he spared no expense in the erection of his new mansion home. Floor beams in this building measure 3" x 14" . . . huge brass locks on every door still perform their duty to this day. Beautiful poplar, walnut and mahogany woods feature the paneling, the stairways, mantels casings and floors. Bonner sold the house in 1845 to a Kentuckian, Colonel Cyrus M. Allen, Sr., a prominent lawyer and citizen in Vincennes. Thereafter, the home became a center of gracious hospitality . . . and Abraham Lincoln was a guest of Allens. In fact the room which Lincoln occupied is marked with a bronze plaque. The mansion today is owned and occupied by the Gardner Funeral Home, one of the oldest business establishments in Indiana.

Interesting Sidelights

DURING THE CIVIL WAR, THE 14TH INDIANA INFANTRY WAS PRESENTED ITS FLAG IN FRONT OF THIS HOME. THE LAND WHERE STOOD THE OLD VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BUILDING WAS DEVOTED TO THE GROWING OF COTTON IN BONNER'S TIME. AT ONE TIME THE LOWER FLOORS OF THE BONNER MANSION WERE OCCUPIED BY RETAILERS.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

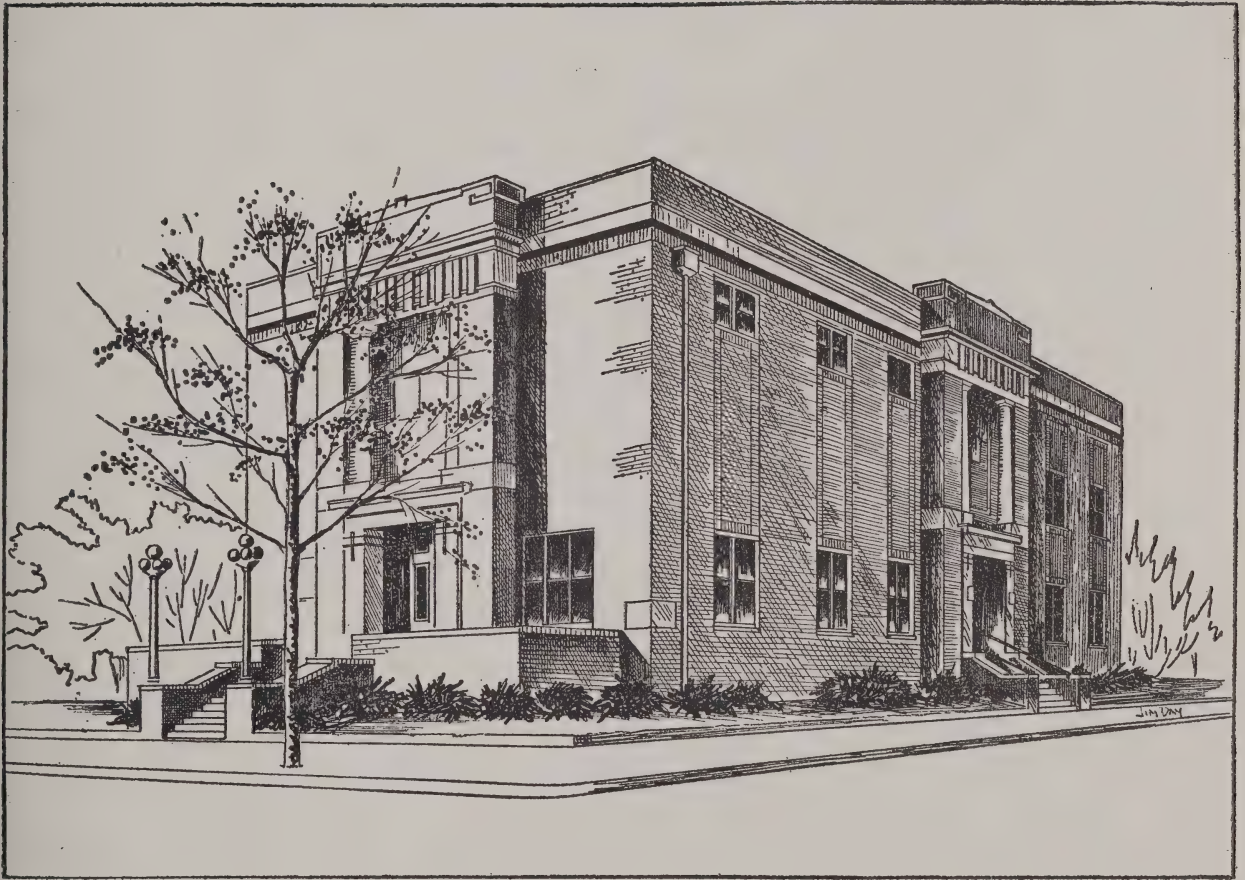
THE BONNER ALLEN MANSION

This imposing half-block long buff brick building, at Fifth and Broadway, is the home of the Masonic Lodge of Vincennes. It was erected in 1916.

Vincennes Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest in the State of Indiana, and the oldest established lodge of continuous existence of the Northwest Territory.

It was organized under dispensation March 13, 1809, by and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and was given a charter August 31, 1809, as Vincennes Lodge No. 15.

After Indiana was admitted as a state, the Grand Lodge of Indiana, F. and A. M., was organized at Madison, Indiana, on January 13, 1818, and Vincennes Lodge, being the oldest within the jurisdiction, was given the designation as No. 1 of Indiana.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

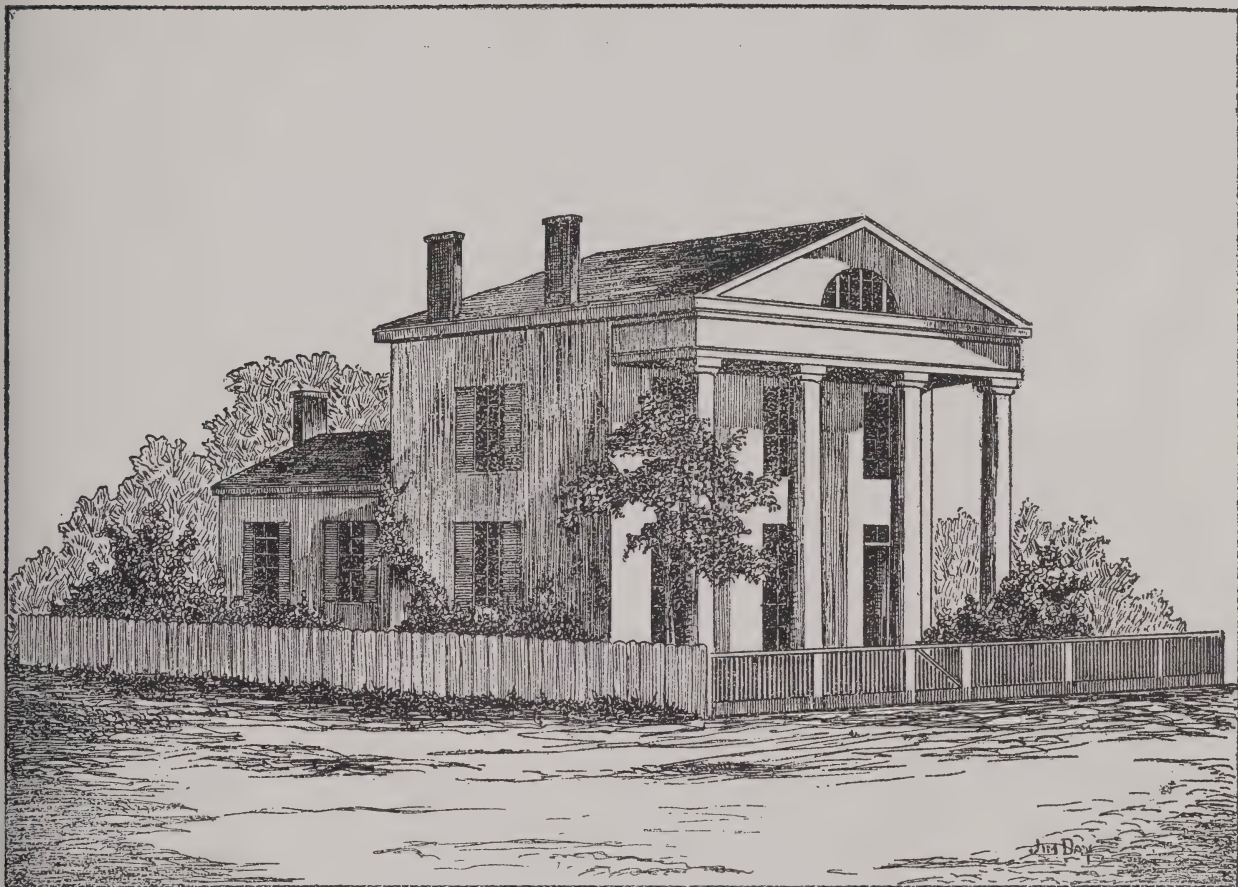
THE MASONIC LODGE HOME

The Old Ellis Mansion (now occupied by the Harmony Society) was built about 1830 by Judge Abner T. Ellis, one of Vincennes' most distinguished citizens of that period. A two story stone structure of Colonial (Georgian) design it is built of native material, the stone having been quarried by hand near Vincennes. The interior woodwork is made of hand-carved cherry and black walnut. Judge Ellis was a pioneer in the efforts to establish steamboat navigation on the Wabash River. He also was the promoter and first president of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad . . . now the B & O. Abraham Lincoln often stayed at the Ellis home . . . and Lucy Ellis (the judge's daughter) was often entreated by Lincoln to play the piano for him. We know definitely that in 1844 after a political speech at Bruceville, Lincoln stayed overnight at the Ellis Mansion. Ellis as President of the O & M Railroad paid Lincoln a \$500.00 retainer fee for attorney services.

Interesting Sidelights

FRAMED OVER THE HAND-CARVED WOODEN FIREPLACE MANTEL IN THE HARMONY RECREATION ROOMS, IS A WINDOW GLASS WITH THIS INSCRIPTION WRITTEN BY A LITTLE GIRL'S DIAMOND RING:

"MR. AND MRS. ELLIS AND LUCY WENT TO ST. LOUIS, OCT. 11, 1849."
MANY ANECDOTES AND LEGENDS ABOUND ABOUT THE OLD ELLIS MANSION . . .
AND VISITORS ARE IMPRESSED WITH ITS STATELY ARCHITECTURE. ESSENTIALLY THE MANSION REMAINS TODAY AS IT DID WHEN IT COMMANDED AN IMPOSING POSITION IN OLD VINCENNES.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE JUDGE ELLIS MANSION

From this small building . . . The Indiana Territory from which four states and part of a fifth were carved, The United States Government ruled in an uncomplicated way . . . from 1800 until 1813. This building . . . The Territorial Hall, then stood on the site of what today is The Security Bank and Trust Co.

A frame building, held together by wooden pegs, it was built along simple lines: stoop porch, small paneled windows, solid wooden, green shutters, heavy hewn timbers, whitewashed walls, huge fireplace, narrow stairway. After several moves during the past century it today stands on the grounds of what was the original estate of William Henry Harrison . . . "Grouseland" his old homestead and now the campus of Vincennes University. Thanks to The Vincennes Fortnightly Club, this building was saved from destruction and was restored in 1919.

Interesting Sidelights

OFFICES FOR THE TERRITORIAL OFFICIALS (GOVERNOR AND SECRETARY) ARE HOUSED ON THE MAIN FLOOR. THE LEGISLATIVE HALL ON THE SECOND FLOOR IS REACHED VIA A NARROW OUTSIDE STAIRWAY. THE ENTIRE BUILDING IS FURNISHED WITH AUTHENTIC FURNITURE, MANY PIECES DATING BACK TO THE YEAR 1800.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE TERRITORIAL HALL

Drowsily dreaming in the rays of the summer sun, and nestled 'neath the shade of the trees in Harrison Park sets the replica of the old Western Sun building.

It was in a similar building that the first newspaper in Indiana Territory was laboriously, courageously published in the then, small village of Vincennes . . . July 31, 1804.

Known then as "The Indiana Gazette," it was published by the pioneer printer: Elihu Stout. The Gazette gained favor and strength from its first issue.

In 1807, Stout's 'plant' was destroyed by fire and several months elapsed before resumption of publication. On July 4th it was again published but appeared this time under the masthead of the "Western Sun." And so it has continued to bear "The Sun" masthead down through the years of Vincennes History and today's successor, the Vincennes Sun-Commercial incorporates its name.

This little building in Harrison Park is filled with authentic printing equipment of the period . . . and each is a museum piece . . . to duplicate Stout's printery.

Interesting Sidelights

IT WAS HERE IN THIS LITTLE BUILDING . . . THAT ABE LINCOLN, A RAW, GANGLING YOUTH SAW HIS FIRST PRINTING PRESS . . . A SCENE THAT LED TO A FAMOUS PAINTING. FROM THIS LITTLE BUILDING DURING THE TROUBLOUS TIMES OF THE CIVIL WAR CAME 'THUNDERING DENUNCIATIONS' AND VERBAL ATTACKS ON LINCOLN'S ADMINISTRATION . . . FOR THE PUBLISHER AT THAT TIME, GEORGE E. GREEN WAS A STAUNCH, FEARLESS DEMOCRAT. THIS BUILDING WAS STORMED BY A MOB OF UNION SOLDIERS AND THE INTERIOR LITERALLY WRECKED AND THE PRESS THROWN INTO THE RIVER. THE HISTORY OF THE WRITTEN WORD . . . THE SAGA OF PRINTING AND NEWSPAPERING HOVER ABOUT THIS BUILDING.



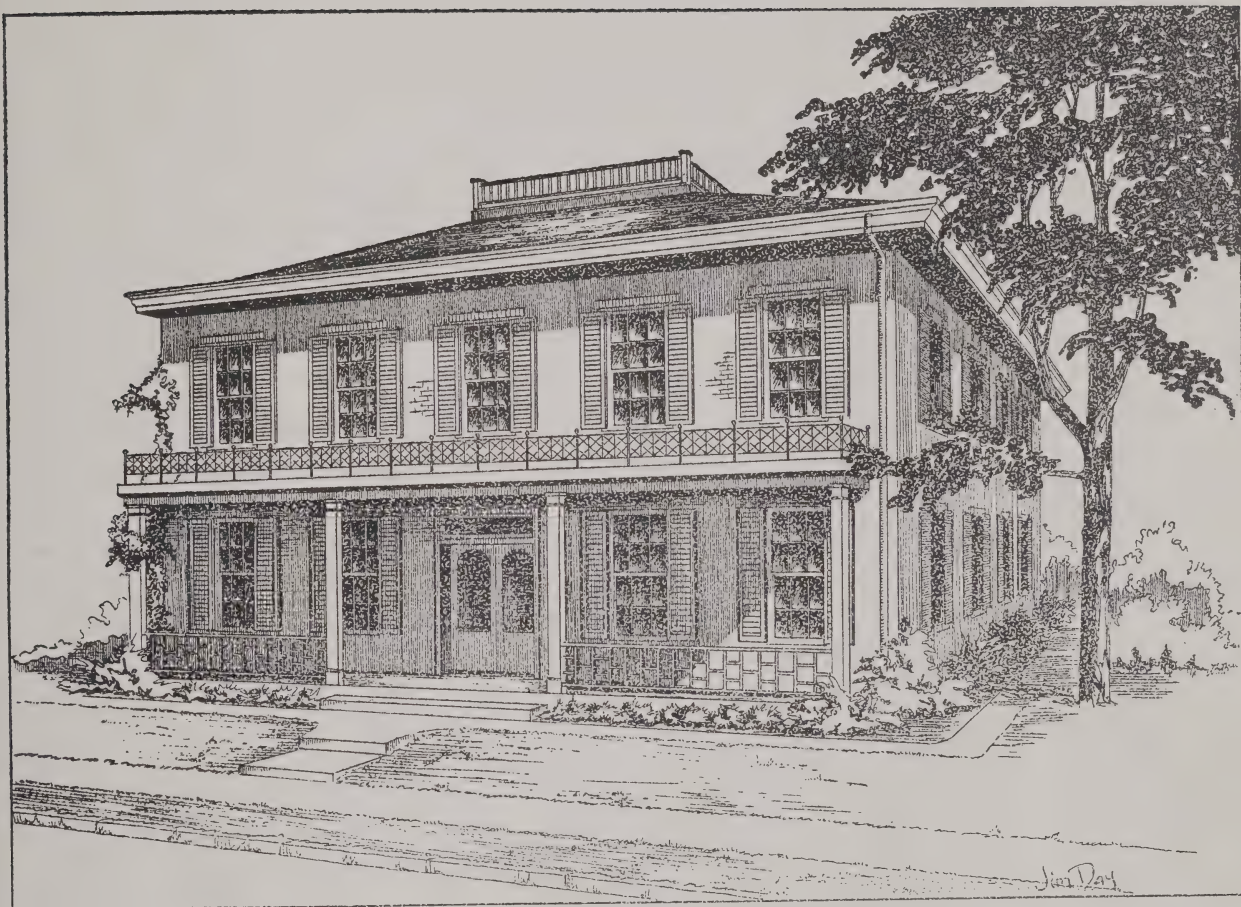
HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE OLD WESTERN SUN OFFICE

This plot of ground, at the corner of Fourth and Buntin streets, is an historical one. On this site stood one of the early courthouses of Knox County from which the affairs of the then huge county area were administered.....From this point, a line projected directly north became the boundary between Indiana and Illinois, after it crossed the Wabash River. This boundary was established in the early years of the past century, and the original survey being lost years later, it was again surveyed in 1833. In 1868 the building and site was acquired by Judge William E. Niblack, a former congressman, and at that time an Indiana Supreme Court Justice. Judge Niblack had the home built as pictured above. This was the birthplace and boyhood home of his son, Rear Admiral Albert P. Niblack. In 1889 the residence was sold to a Weems family, and it remained in this family's possession until 1931, when the American Legion, Post No. 73 purchased it and converted the building into a permanent home for the organization. Today, the old Niblack residence (as sturdy as the day it was built) is an imposing and attractive historical point in Vincennes.

Interesting Sidelights

THE INNER BRICK WALLS OF THIS PRESENT DAY HOME ARE THE SAME WALLS OF THE OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE.
IT IS STRONGLY ASSUMED THAT SOMEWHERE INCORPORATED IN THE STRUCTURE IS THE ORIGINAL STONE BLOCK WHICH SERVED AS THE STARTING POINT OF THE INDIANA-ILLINOIS BOUNDARY.
THE FIRST COURT HELD IN INDIANA WAS HELD ON THIS SPOT.
BEAUTIFUL WOODS, HIGH CEILINGS, LARGE ROOMS, NUMEROUS PANED-WINDOWS ARE OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS HOME.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE JUDGE NIBLACK HOME

This is the Old University Building (razed in 1954), that stood on the university grounds at the corner of Busseron and Fifth Streets, in downtown Vincennes. This grand old building will be remembered with fond nostalgia by hundreds of Vincennes alumni . . . for it was in this towering brick structure that they applied themselves to higher learning . . . and many good times, as they will attest to. The ordinance of 1787 adopted for the government of the old Northwest Territory contained the significant provision . . . "Religion, Morality and Knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." In 1801, Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison established "Jefferson Academy" in Vincennes and requested a land grant to support the frontier school. Congress on March 26, 1804, set apart an entire civil township of land in the Vincennes district for the establishment and maintenance of an institution of higher learning. In 1806, the institution was chartered as Vincennes University, growing directly out of Jefferson Academy. Thus was Vincennes University born.

Today's Vincennes University, growing day-by-day, year-by-year has made truly remarkable advancements and the new buildings framed on its spacious campus presages a university in the years to come that will rank very high in the roster of colleges in the United States.

Interesting Sidelights

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON WAS FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF VINCENNES UNIVERSITY. CHARTERED IN 1806 VINCENNES UNIVERSITY WAS THE FIRST COLLEGE IN THE STATE HOLDS THE OLDEST CHARTER IN THE NORTH-WEST. THE ORIGINAL CHARTER CONTAINED A PROVISION FOR EDUCATING INDIAN YOUTHS AT UNIVERSITY EXPENSE. VINCENNES UNIVERSITY WAS A PIONEER IN MILITARY TRAINING. IN 1894 IT ESTABLISHED A CADET CORPS . . . AND THIS CORPS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SERVING IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR. THE SIGMA PI FRATERNITY, A MEN'S NATIONAL COLLEGIATE FRATERNITY WAS FOUNDED AT VINCENNES UNIVERSITY ON FEBRUARY 26, 1897.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE OLD VINCENNES UNIVERSITY

Historical Lore hovers about this Mansion . . . legend too. Erected in 1803-04 and built with hand-made bricks, made at the Thompson (later Vigo) farm, three miles east of Vincennes. In this home, you will see solid walnut, hand-carved woodwork . . . and unseen are beams with wooden pegs, and hand-forged nails. You will wander from Council Chamber, to the family living room, kitchen, dining room, bedrooms, nursery, servants quarters, wine room, school-room and even view the powder magazine. Here, William Henry Harrison, and his family lived in the early days of Vincennes. And from this home he set forth each day on his rounds and duties as Governor of the Northwest Territory . . . of which then, Vincennes was the Capitol city.

Interesting Sidelights

IT IS SAID, THAT THERE EXISTED A SECRET TUNNEL FROM HOUSE TO RIVER BANK, TO ESCAPE POSSIBLE INDIAN FORAYS . . . AND MANY SECRET PASS-AGEWAYS AND ESCAPE ROUTES EXIST EVEN TODAY. SCRUTINY TOO, WILL SHOW THE BULLET HOLE IN ONE OF THE SHUTTERS, MADE WHEN AN INDIAN SHOT AT HARRISON AS HE WALKED THE NURSERY FLOOR WITH HIS INFANT SON. AUTHENTIC FURNITURE OF THE PERIOD AND OF ACTUAL USE BY VINCENNES PIONEERS IS ON DISPLAY. THE HOME TODAY IS UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND CARE OF THE FRANCIS VIGO CHAPTER, D A R.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE HARRISON MANSION

★The Knox County courthouse, built in 1873-1874 at a cost of approximately \$360,000, was intended as an appropriate monument to the pioneers and soldiers of Knox County. It is said to be the first public building erected as a soldier memorial in the country. On the front of the building arises a marble tablet twenty-one feet high, capped with a molding bearing the monogram of the United States. This slab was designed to receive the names of the citizen soldiers of the county who had fallen in battle. On the opposite side of the building is a memorial to the pioneer settlers, in the form of a fine bas-relief representation of the setting sun behind the mountains and a frightened buffalo running away at the sound of the pioneer's axe. Above this stands the figure of George Rogers Clark. It is a fine piece of sculpture by Andrew Barrot of the city of Carrara, Italy. It is carved from one solid block of stone and weighs nearly four tons.

Interesting Sidelights

- IN A NICHE OPPOSITE THE CLARK STATUE IS THE FIGURE OF A CIVIL WAR SOLDIER, STANDING AT PARADE REST. ON THE BUSSEY STREET SIDE OF THE BUILDING ABOVE THE ENTRANCE, STANDS THE FIGURE OF JUSTICE. IT IS SAID THAT THIS PIECE OF WORK WAS MODELED AFTER DONATI DE BARDI'S FAMOUS PIECE IN THE VATICAN COLLECTION AT ROME. ALL THE STATUES ARE MORE THAN NINE FEET IN HEIGHT.
- ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE STANDS A SOLDIERS' MONUMENT ERECTED IN 1914 AT A COST OF \$50,000.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE KNOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

On the northwest corner of the spacious Knox County Courthouse lawn, stands this inspiring memorial: The Knox County Soldiers and Sailors Monument, commemorating the heroic men who fought and died in the great war between the states . . . the Civil War 1861-1865. Young in years, (having only been erected in 1914) the memorial brings marching out of the last century the terrible and yet glorious names of Antietam . . . Shiloh . . . Atlanta . . . Gettysburg . . . Fredericksburg . . . Chancellorsville . . . where Union Soldiers and Sailors of Knox County gave their lives. Soaring 80 feet high, and surmounted by a cast-bronze "Color Bearer" figure the ageless Chocolate Montello Granite monument is one of the most beautiful and inspiring monuments to Civil War heroes in the nation.

Interesting Sidelights

ON AUGUST 4TH, 1910 A PETITION OF 5,103 VOTERS ASKED KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR AN APPROPRIATION TO BUILD A CIVIL WAR MONUMENT. ON SEPT. 6, 1910 THE COMMISSIONERS GRANTED \$50,000 TO THIS PURPOSE. EIGHT DESIGNS WERE SUBMITTED, AND THAT OF C. N. CLARK OF URBANA, ILLINOIS WAS ACCEPTED. THE TERRE HAUTE MONUMENT COMPANY WAS DESIGNATED AS THE BUILDER. LOCAL CONSTRUCTION WAS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF J. S. SPIKER OF VINCENNES. THE CHOCOLATE MONTELLO GRANITE WAS QUARRIED IN WISCONSIN. FOUR YEARS ELAPSED BEFORE THE MONUMENT CAME UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BUT ACTUAL WORK WAS BEGUN IN JULY OF 1910. THE MONUMENT IS 46' X 44' AT THE BASE. AND A TROPHY AND MEMORIAL ROOM IS LOCATED IN THIS AREA. YEARS AGO, BATTLE FLAGS, CITATIONS, WERE KEPT IN THE ROOM, BUT IN 1940 THEY WERE REMOVED. THE MONUMENT WAS DEDICATED ON OCTOBER 8, 1914, FOLLOWING A GREAT PARADE AND CEREMONIES WHICH THOUSANDS ATTENDED. GOVERNOR SAMUEL M. RALSTON OF INDIANA DELIVERED THE MAIN ADDRESS, AND THE MONUMENT WAS DEDICATED BY A FAMOUS VINCENNES ORATOR: HON. JAMES WADE EMISON. ON THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE MONUMENT BASE, CAST BRONZE FIGURES, 8 FOOT IN HEIGHT AND REPRESENTING THE FOUR BRANCHES OF SERVICES ARE SHOWN: ARTILLERY, INFANTRY, CAVALRY AND MARINE. FOUR CIVIL WAR CANNONS SURROUND THE MONUMENT.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL

St. Rose Academy stands upon historic ground. No building in Vincennes ever witnessed so many vicissitudes as the old St. Rose. The first Vincennes University, built in 1807, it became successively the Territorial Legislative Hall, a college for young men, a seminary for students of the priesthood, an orphanage home for boys and girls, and finally St. Rose Academy . . . and thus it has remained a pre-college academy for girls, and under the direction of the Sisters of Providence, of St. Mary's of the Woods.

It was upon this site the first university building stood. It was a 2½ story structure. Succeeding this building, still another brick building was erected in 1811. This building remained in use until it was demolished in 1884, when the present St. Rose (as pictured above) was erected.

Interesting Sidelights

THE TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE MET IN THE HALLS OF THE OLD ST. ROSE BUILDING IN 1811. IT WAS USED AS A HOSPITAL IN 1812 . . . AND IN 1861 IT SHELTERED MEMBERS OF THE NINETEENTH ILLINOIS REGIMENT ON THEIR WAY TO CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS. BISHOP DE LA HAILANDIERE PURCHASED THE OLD ST. ROSE BUILDING FROM THE UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES AND IT BECAME ST. GABRIEL'S COLLEGE FOR YOUNG MEN AND A SEMINARY FOR STUDENTS OF THE PRIESTHOOD. IN 1844 THIS BUILDING WAS USED BY THE ORPHANS OF THE DIOCESE. IN 1875 THE SCHOOL BECAME ST. ROSE ACADEMY . . . AND THUS IT HAS REMAINED . . . THE ALMA MATER FOR THOUSANDS OF YOUNG LADIES IN THIS AREA.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE ST. ROSE ACADEMY

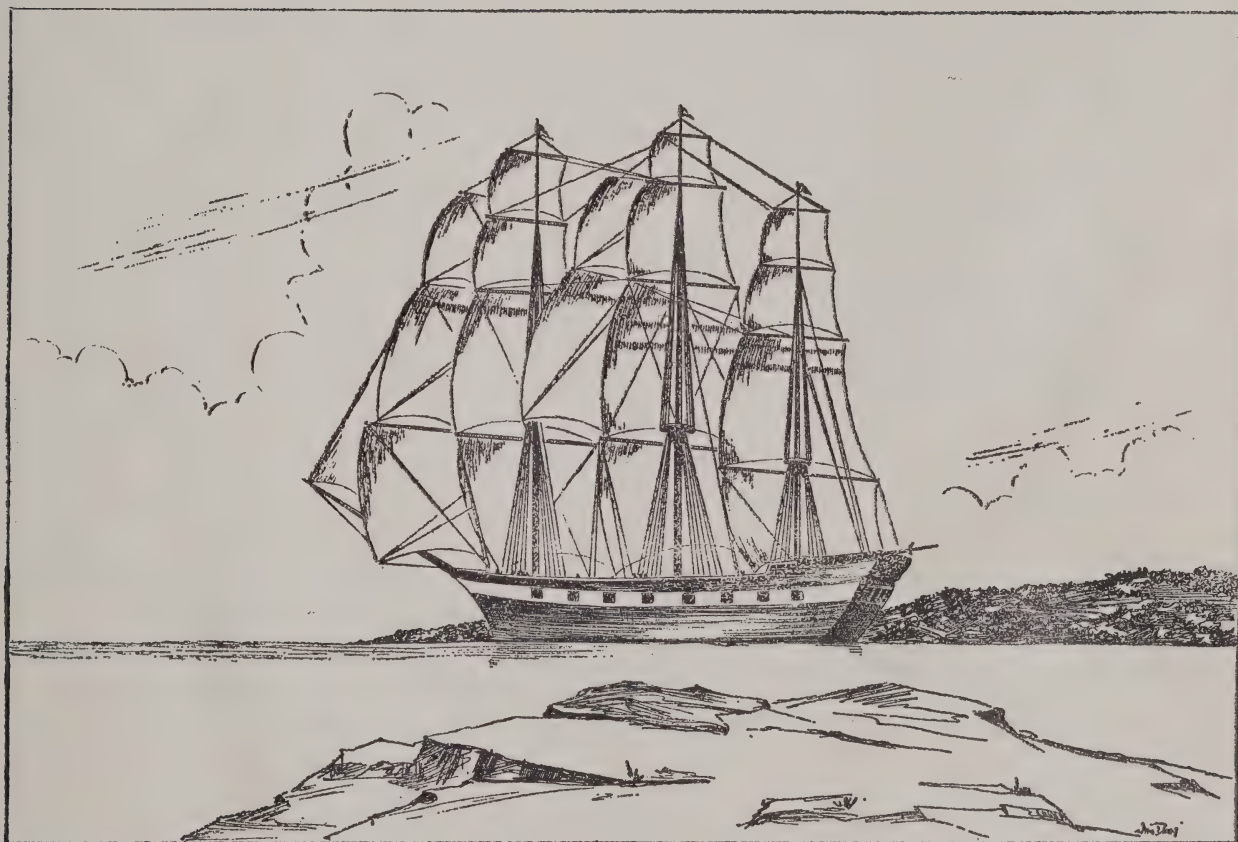
The sloop-of-war Vincennes, launched at New York in 1826, well deserves to be listed among the famous ships of the United States Navy. Put to sea after the War of 1812 and practically obsolete by the time of the Civil War, she never had an opportunity to prove her worth as a fighting craft. The Vincennes was used in peaceful pursuits. The Vincennes was a 3-masted sailing vessel with a capacity of 700 tons. She had a complement of 170 officers and men. Her length was 127 feet, and her beam measured 33.9 feet. Her maximum draft was 16.5 feet and her rated speed 18 knots per hour. The Vincennes was the fastest sailing ship in the U. S. Navy. The Vincennes cost \$119,175.

During 1829 the Vincennes circumnavigated the globe, the first U. S. naval vessel to accomplish that feat. In 1835 she visited the island of Guam, the first naval vessel to call there. On January 19, 1840, under the command of Commander Charles Wilkes, the Vincennes was part of an expedition that discovered the existence of the Antarctic continent.

Another historic episode in which the Vincennes played an important part occurred in 1846. With a sister ship the Columbus, the Vincennes was the first U. S. ship to ever enter a Japanese port.

Interesting Sidelights

FROM 1849 TO 1852 THE VINCENNES EXPLORED THE PACIFIC OCEAN. IN 1855 THE VINCENNES HEADED AN EXPEDITION INTO THE ARCTIC REGIONS. IN 1856 THE VINCENNES COMPLETED HER SECOND CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE. THE VINCENNES AS A UNIT IN THE UNION NAVY DID BATTLE WITH THE CONFEDERATE SHIP 'MANASSAS' AT THE MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI. THEREAFTER SHE SAW SERVICE AS ONE OF THE WEST GULF BLOCKADING EXPEDITION. ON AUGUST 28, 1865, THE VINCENNES WAS PLACED IN ORDINARY AT BOSTON AND SOLD ON OCTOBER 5, 1867. THE SECOND IN THE VINCENNES LINE WAS THE HEAVY CRUISER NO. 44 LAUNCHED ON MAY 21, 1936. IN A NIGHT BATTLE OFF SAVO ISLAND ON AUGUST 9, 1942, THE VINCENNES WAS STRUCK BY ENEMY FIRE, BLASTED APART AND SANK. THE THIRD VINCENNES, A LIGHT CRUISER, WAS LAUNCHED ON JULY 17, 1943. AFTER A GLORIOUS FIGHTING CAREER AND NUMEROUS ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE ENEMY IN THE PACIFIC, THE VINCENNES WAS INACTIVATED AT MARE ISLAND NAVY YARD, IN MARCH 1947. THIS, THE MIDWESTERN CITY OF VINCENNES HAS THE RARE DISTINCTION OF HAVING THREE GLORIOUS FIGHTING SHIPS AS NAMESAKES IN THE U. S. NAVY.



HISTORIC VINCENNES

THE SLOOP OF WAR, VINCENNES

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the Spring of 1959, "Historic Vincennes" a bi-monthly series of newspaper advertisements, was introduced to readers through the columns of The Vincennes Sun-Commercial. The entire series was sponsored by The Hoosier Gas Corporation of Vincennes and Southern Indiana area. This series . . . 25 in all . . . ended in April 1960. Readers of the ad series, were invited to secure a free copy of each illustration (as it appears) printed on an antique finish paper, by simply visiting the Hoosier Gas Corporation's general offices in downtown Vincennes.

The response was tremendous. School children, adults, from the immediate area, and from all over the nation requested copies, and the initial printing was quickly exhausted. Many people made scrapbooks from the illustrations. Still others framed them. The drawings, the work of Mr. James E. Day, and the historical copy by the author, were lauded and commended by many. The series was entered in the American Gas Association's annual advertising awards contest and drew high honors.

The author was urged to place the entire 25 ads in book form, and so, upon the conclusion of the advertising series the plates and type were utilized in this book.

The author wishes to express gratitude to, and acknowledge the guidance and advice of the following people, active in Vincennes Historical Circles: Mrs. Rose Schultheis, Mrs. Harry T. Watts, Sr., Curtis G. Shake, Former Chief Justice Indiana Supreme Court, Monsignor Paul E. Deery, Pastor of the Old Cathedral, Maxine Batman, Librarian, Vincennes Public Library, Mr. Lyman H. Bell, President, Hoosier Gas Corporation, and to all others who in any way aided in the preparation of this historical symposium.

L. A. "Tony" ERNST,

Vincennes, Indiana

Ernst Advertising Agency

December 1, 1960.



HECKMAN
BINDERY INC.



DEC 97

Bound-To-Pleas® N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA 46962

